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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for ranking relevancy of search results of a search for media
- 2 on a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:
- 3 categorizing metadata associated with said media, each category of
- 4 metadata comprising at least one set of metadata;
 - assigning at least one weight to each set of metadata, wherein a value of each weight is determined in accordance with a content of each set of metadata; and
 - calculating a score for ranking said relevancy of each search result, wherein a score is calculated for each search result in accordance with said at least one assigned weight and category of each set of metadata.
 - 2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said category comprises
- 2 at least one of artist of said media, type of media, date said media was created,
- 3 and creation location of said media.
- 1 3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said value of each weight
- 2 is determined in accordance with at least one of bit rate of said media, duration
- 3 of said media, sampling rate of said media, a number of occurrences of a term
- 4 in a set of metadata, a number of links to a referenced web site in a set of
- 5 metadata, a file type of said media, and a number of terms occurring between
- 6 specified query terms in a web page.
- 1 4. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said at least one set of
- 2 metadata is categorized in accordance with predetermined associations between
- 3 said categories and said sets of metadata.

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- 1 5. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said metadata comprise
- 2 elements related to at least one of content of the media, intellectual property
- 3 rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.
- 1 6. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said media comprises at
- 2 least one of multimedia and streaming media.
- 1 7. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said communications
- 2 network is a computer network.
 - 8. A program readable medium having embodied thereon a program for causing a processor to rank relevancy of search results of a search for media on a communications network, said program readable medium comprising:
 - means for causing said processor to categorize metadata associated with said media, each category of metadata comprising at least one set of metadata;
 - means for causing said processor to assign at least one weight to each set of metadata, wherein a value of each weight is determined in accordance with a content of each set of metadata; and
- means for causing said processor to calculate a score for ranking said relevancy of each search result, wherein a score is calculated for each search result in accordance with said at least one assigned weight and category of each set of metadata.
- 1 9. A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said
- 2 category comprises at least one of artist of said media, type of media, date said
- 3 media was created, and creation location of said media.
- 1 10. A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said
- 2 value of each weight is determined in accordance with at least one of bit rate of

- 3 said media, duration of said media, sampling rate of said media, a number of
- 4 occurrences of a term in a set of metadata, a number of links to a referenced
- 5 web site in a set of metadata, a file type of said media, and a number of terms
- 6 occurring between specified query terms in a web page.
- 1 11. A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said at
- 2 least one set of metadata is categorized in accordance with predetermined
- 3 associations between said categories and said sets of metadata.
- 1 12. A program readable medium in accordance with claim 8, wherein said
- 2 metadata comprise elements related to at least one of content of the media,
- 3 intellectual property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the
- 4 media.
 - 13. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:
- a categorize metadata code segment for categorizing metadata associated with media on a communications network, each category of metadata comprising at least one set of metadata;
- an assign weight code segment for assigning at least one weight to each
- 6 set of metadata, wherein a value of each weight is determined in accordance
- 7 with a content of each set of metadata; and
- 8 a calculate score code segment for calculating a score for ranking
- 9 relevancy of search results of a search for said media on a communications
- 10 network, wherein a score is calculated for each search result in accordance with
- said at least one assigned weight and category of each set of metadata.
- 1 14. A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said categories
- 2 comprise at least one of artist of said media, type of media, date said media was
- 3 created, and creation location of said media.

1	15.	A data	signal i	n accordance	with clain	n 13,	wherein	said v	value	of e	ach
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- 2 weight is determined in accordance with at least one of bit rate of said media,
- duration of said media, sampling rate of said media, a number of occurrences
- 4 of a term in a set of metadata, a number of links to a referenced web site in a
- 5 set of metadata, a file type of said media, and a number of terms occurring
- 6 between specified query terms in a web page.
- 1 16. A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said at least one set
- 2 of metadata is categorized in accordance with predetermined associations
- 3 between said categories and said sets of metadata.
- 1 17. A data signal in accordance with claim 13, wherein said metadata
- 2 comprise elements related to at least one of content of the media, intellectual
- 3 property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.
- 1 18. A method for ranking relevancy of search results of a search for at least
- 2 one of streaming media and multimedia (m/s media) on a communications
- 3 network, said method comprising the steps of:
- 4 categorizing metadata associated with said at least one of m/s media,
- 5 each category of metadata comprising at least one set of metadata, wherein said
- 6 category comprises at least one of artist of said m/s media, type of m/s media,
- 7 date said m/s media was created, and creation location of said m/s media;
- 8 assigning at least one weight to each set of metadata, wherein:
- a value of each weight is determined in accordance with a content
- of each set of metadata; and
- said value of each weight is determined in accordance with at
- least one of bit rate of said m/s media, duration of said m/s media, sampling
- rate of said m/s media, a number of occurrences of a term in a set of metadata,

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14	a number of links to a referenced web site in a set of metadata, a file type of
15	said m/s media, and a number of terms occurring between specified query
16	terms in a web page; and

calculating a score for ranking said relevancy of each search result, wherein a score is calculated for each search result in accordance with said at least one assigned weight and category of each set of metadata.